

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Final Office Action of December 1, 2005, is respectfully requested and entry of the claim amendments to place the application in immediate condition for allowance is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action the claims status was noted as follows:

- i – claims allowed (3-11, 13-15, 21, 28, 42 and 43);
 - ii – claims objected to but containing allowable subject matter (2, 12, 17-19, and 24-27);
- and
- iii – claims rejected (16, 20, 22, and 23).

In the accompanying claim amendments the following revisions have been made.

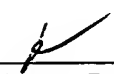
- 1) A rewriting of claim 2 as an independent claim by adding in the language of independent claim 22.
- 2) A rewriting claim 17 as an independent claim by adding in the contents of claim 22.
- 3) Amending claim 22 by adding in the features of now canceled claims 23 and (objected to) 24.
- 4) A change in dependency of claim 25 from 24 to 22.

Thus, the claim amendments render all independent claims allowable in their present form and Applicants look forward to confirmation of the same by way of a Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 034017R005.

Respectfully submitted,
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